



Press Release

Lake County Sheriff's Office
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Daniel A. Dunlap
Sheriff

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March 28, 2011

Sheriff's Deputies Stop Suicidal Male

On Friday, March 25th, 2011, at 9:24 am, the Lake County Sheriff's office responded to Tri-Point hospital in Concord Township to a report of a male who was threatening to commit suicide in his vehicle in the parking lot near the emergency room.

Upon arrival they were faced with a 46-year-old Perry Township resident saying he had a firearm and was thinking about taking his life. Immediately set up a perimeter around the armed man to keep all incoming vehicles from the emergency room area. The situation presented increased issues for the hospital because it blocked any potential emergency vehicles containing patients.

A Sheriff's negotiator approached the man's vehicle and spoke with him for about 15 minutes before the male got out of his car, unloaded his gun and threw the bullets on the ground before surrendering to deputies. Capt. Sparkman stated that *"At no point did the male threaten to harm anyone other than himself."* The man had just lost his job, filed for bankruptcy and is going through a divorce.

Immediately following his laying down his gun and exiting the vehicle the male underwent a mental health evaluation at TriPoint Medical Center.

Although the man has not been charged, Capt. Lonnie Sparkman said it is possible he could face criminal charges such as creating a public emergency and having weapons under disability and other charges depending on whether or not he was under the influence of drugs or alcohol. "Our primary concern at this point is his mental health status," Sparkman said. "We're just glad it ended peacefully."